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# INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

Published at Indianapolis, Indiana.

GEORGE S. COTTMAN, *Editor and Publisher.*

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## EDITORIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND NEWSPAPERS.

That librarianship as a science is now but in its infancy is a fact that is recognized, doubtless, by most modern librarians. When library work shall have developed more fully along the many lines that are destined to come within its scope, not its least important function will be the indexing and organizing of the great mass of valuable material that is continually passing through the newspaper press. There is great need to emphasize the importance of this task, which, up to the present, seems to have received little attention. It is, we presume, a quite safe proposition that the library aims to be a school for the people—a promoter of information, and one kind of information of considerable importance is a knowledge of the character of a society by the people who form it. The great source of such information is the newspapers, which reflect the community life and spirit as nothing else does. A newspaper index, intelligently compiled, would be a record or synopsis of the forces that have made a community what it is, whether for good or bad. It would be a chronological list of social movements, of the notable performances of men, and of a great variety of facts, valuable, interesting and curious, which, without such guide, are speedily swallowed up in oblivion and their lessons lost. To be specific, *Terrè Haute* has, during the last half-year, been subjected to an experience that is of State-wide interest. In the fight against that threatening depravity which is continually showing its head everywhere, she affords an object-lesson that is worthy of elaborate study. In another year's time the whole chapter will be buried away so completely as to be practically forgotten, significant though it is. He who wishes to investigate that crusade against unrighteousness should be able to go to the *Terre Haute* library and by its index be guided readily to all the salient points of the case as chronicled by the contemporary papers. As with *Terre Haute*, so, in varying degree, with

every town in the State. The laws of growth and retrogression are going on always and everywhere, and wherever the newspaper exists it is holding the mirror up to nature—if we but know how to interpret the newspaper. As its contents lie scattered through the columns, they are little more than waste matter, but selected and organized, the inconsequential eliminated, they present the very texture of our civilization. The first step toward a history of our State that shall be worthy the name must be this cooperative organizing of a mass of material too extensive for the individual to compass. The work done by the local libraries should be a stimulus and aid to the minor students, and these students will prepare the way for the historian proper. At the present stage it is all-essential that the vigorous and phenomenal library movement, now asserting itself throughout our State, recognize in a broad way its relation to current history and its opportunities as a conservator of the same.

If we are rightly informed, there are but three of the larger libraries of the country that are doing newspaper indexing. Of these, one is the Indiana State Library, which has listed the more important contents of the leading Indianapolis papers from 1898 to the present time. This guide to the files, as people learn of it, is coming more and more into popular use, the newspapers themselves being among the most frequent patrons. The State Library scheme is, of course, much more extensive than a local library would adopt, and yet an hour or two a day suffices for the work. In the average local library ten or fifteen minutes a day would doubtless be ample time for indexing a mass of reference material that would have an abiding interest and value.

#### MORE REVOLUTIONARY GRAVES.

BRAZIL, IND., July 12, 1906.

*Editor Indiana Magazine of History.*

SIR:—You have given information regarding Revolutionary soldiers' graves in several counties, which proves interesting to many people. I desire to report for Clay county the following Revolutionary soldiers and the location of their graves:

Lawrence Thompson and Amos Kelley are buried in the Zenor cemetery, on Birch creek, six miles south of Brazil. Thomp-

son served in a North Carolina regiment. Some time after the close of the Revolutionary War, he settled in Harrison county, Indiana; thence to Clay county, where he died some time in the forties, aged about 108. Numerous descendants still live in this county. Kelley has no known descendants in the county, and little is known of his history other than the fact that he was a soldier of the Revolution. The Board of Commissioners of Clay county, with the unanimous consent of the County Council, at the suggestion of a few citizens, made an appropriation of two hundred dollars for a monument to each of their graves. The monuments were lettered and set up several months ago, and on July 4, 1906, a meeting was held at the cemetery, and the monuments duly dedicated.

John Yocom, a Revolutionary soldier, is buried in a private family graveyard, two miles south of Brazil, which has long been in disuse.

John Hopper and Benjamin Wheeler, are buried in another Zenor cemetery a short distance south of Bowling Green, the old county seat.

This makes five buried in Clay county. There may be one or two more, but the above list includes all that are positively known.

Yours truly,

F. W. ROBERTSON.

In addition to the above Miss Mary E. Cardwill, of New Albany, reports David Benton, and Arthur Parr, buried respectively in Jackson and Washington counties. There are some Revolutionary graves in Bartholomew county, but we have not been able to ascertain the names. We also find mention of Samuel Boyd, who died in Wayne county in 1835. Boyd was the maternal grandfather of Judge E. B. Martindale, of Indianapolis. We would be glad to receive information of this character from other readers.

#### LOCAL HISTORY CONTRIBUTIONS.

*Reminiscences of an Indianian.*—Capt. J. A. Lemcke, now of Indianapolis, a man of wide experience and varied fortunes, has published under this title a private edition volume which narrates the ups and downs of a somewhat checkered life. It is, in part, the story of a young man making his way fifty or sixty

years ago. Of those times we have many intimate glimpses of life and conditions that are a real contribution to our history. His experiences as a river man on the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Wabash and White rivers are especially interesting. In more recent years Captain Lemcke was a man of some prominence in Indiana (Republican) politics. In 1886 he was elected State Treasurer, and during President Harrison's administration the office of United States Treasurer was tendered him. His declining of this tempting offer was so unusual that, as Mr. Lemcke says, "Frank Leslie, among others, published my picture with the humorously satirical remark: 'This is the portrait of a man who refused office, and *he from Indiana.*'" A wide acquaintance with men of note adds not a little to the interest of Mr. Lemcke's recollections, and the whole narrated with a pervasive strain of genuine humor makes the book exceedingly readable, and one deserving of a fuller review than we have space for.

*Reminiscences of Early Indianapolis.*—*The Indianapolis News*, in its Saturday editions, has for some months been running a series of papers, "Reminiscences of an Old Reporter," which deal with the Indianapolis of an earlier day. They are written by Charles Dennis, for many years one of the best-known newspaper men in the city. His personal recollections go back to a period antedating the war, and his long experience in the reportorial field has brought him in wide contact with persons and given him an intimate knowledge of events, which he sets forth graphically with the pen of a trained writer. So far as his sketches present actual recollections they are of distinct interest and value, and the more so because they deal with things about which little or no information can be had from our written histories.

*Early Newspapers of Richmond.*—In the *Richmond Sun-Telegram* of February 26, 1906, is published a list of the Richmond newspapers from 1820 to the present time, compiled by B. F. Wissler. Twenty-eight papers are specified as existing in that time. The list, Mr. Wissler tells us, is not absolutely complete, as even within that comparatively narrow field some have passed wholly into oblivion. We are further told that more than seventy-five papers have been published in Wayne county. In

Mr. Wissler's list we note such odd names as *The Family Schoolmaster*, *The Lily*, *The Broad Axe of Freedom* and *Grubbing Hoe of Truth* and *The Humming Bird*.

*Tippecanoe Battle Document*.—In the *Lafayette Morning Journal* of June 23, 1906, is published a newly found document relating to the battle of Tippecanoe. This is an account of the fight by Judge Isaac Naylor, who was a participant in it. The paper was found among the effects of Judge Naylor, now in possession of his daughter, Mrs. Mary Naylor Whiteford, who was recently visiting in Lafayette. The account has in it a number of points not, we believe, to be found elsewhere. We will, if possible, publish it in full in our next issue.

*Old Fort near Richmond*.—In the *Richmond Sun-Telegram* of July 4, 1906, O. S. Harrison publishes an interview with Isaac Lamb, an old citizen of Richmond, who remembered and described to the interviewer the blockhouse built in 1812, near the present site of Richmond. According to Mr. Lamb, the fort was about thirty feet square and built of hewn logs fitted very closely together. The lower part of the building was used for living purposes, and the second story, which overhung the first, was supplied with port-holes, cut about waist high, that commanded the surroundings. In its latter years the structure was used as a tool-house and granary by Thomas Lamb, father of Isaac, who burned it down in 1830. Mr. Harrison states that "Fort Smith," as he calls it, was on the old Jacob Smith farm, but omits to locate it more definitely.\* There were many of these old blockhouses located throughout southern Indiana, and a record of them would be an interesting addition to our frontier history.

\*Since the above was put in type we find in another article by Mr. Harrison on the same subject (*Sun-Telegram*, June 2) that the blockhouse "was on the river about one mile and a half west and north of where the court-house now stands, on the place now occupied by Nathan P. Wilson, and near where his house stands." It was built in 1812 by George Smith, Jesse Bond, Valentine Pegg, Cornelius Ratliff and others of the neighborhood.